

# Pre-Course Reading



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Planning Course

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## Course Overview

### Course Organization

#### **Part 1—Modules 1-5**

Provides the background and framework for conservation planning. Part 1 can be taught in the classroom or taken individually by computer in a self-paced module.

#### **Part 2—Modules 6-8**

Is the hands-on field application of the planning process. It includes classroom and field exercises.

#### **Part 3—Module 9**

Is the individual application of the conservation planning process utilizing the information learned in Parts 1 and 2. Part 3 is to be completed at the employee's work location with the assistance of a coach and the employee's supervisor.

## **Course Layout**

### **Part 1—Background and Framework**

1. How NRCS Will Do Business
2. Planning Policy and Guidance
3. Key Elements of Conservation Planning
4. Conservation Planning Environment
5. Resource Management Systems

**Method of Delivery:** Computer—Self-Paced or Classroom

### **Part 2—Hands-on Application**

6. Phase I of the Planning Process
7. Phase II of the Planning Process
8. Phase III of the Planning Process

**Method of Delivery:** Classroom and Field Exercises

### **Part 3—Conservation Planning**

9. - Develop a Plan
- Evaluate a Plan
- Revise a Plan

**Method of Delivery:** On-the-job Within Four Months

## **Module Descriptions**

**Module 1—How NRCS Will Do Business.** Sets the stage for the course by providing a synopsis of the history of NRCS and the conservation partnership, and describes how we will do business in the conservation planning arena.

**Module 2—Planning Policy and Guidance.** Provides highlights of conservation planning and related policy, as well as information on programs and how they relate to the planning process.

**Module 3—Key Elements of Conservation Planning.** Covers the key elements of conservation planning and an introduction to the three-phase, nine-step planning process.

**Module 4—Conservation Planning Environment.** Covers the conservation planning environment, including the components and relationships of the natural resources, cultural resources, economic considerations, social considerations, and policy issues.

**Module 5—Resource Management Systems.** Covers resource management systems (RMS) and the tools used to develop RMSs.

**Module 6—Phase I of the Planning Process.** Provides classroom and field experience in carrying out conservation planning steps 1 through 4 - collection and analysis.

**Module 7—Phase II of the Planning Process.** Provides classroom and field experience in carrying out conservation planning steps 5 through 7 - decision support.

**Module 8—Phase III of the Planning Process.** Provides classroom and field experience in carrying out conservation planning steps 8 and 9 - application and evaluation.

**Module 9—Conservation Planning.** Allows the participants to put the information they learned to practical use by developing a plan, evaluating a plan, and revising a plan.